

ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

G. H. POTTER, M.O.H.

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Presented to the District Council
September 13th, 1949

URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL



Summary of the Annual Report OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

Councillor J. T. SIMM, J.P. (Chairman).

Councillor A. GUEST, J.P., C.C. (Vice-Chairman).

Councillors D. Bennett, P. Bradley, J. Gaskell, J.P., T. Murton, W. Nixon, T. Parkinson, S. Preston, J. A. Simpkin, A. A. Hesketh, J. D. Peel.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor J. T. SIMM, J.P. (Chairman), and all members of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

January to March and June to August, 1948 : Dr. J. G. HAILWOOD.

April to May, 1948 : Dr. T. HOLME.

August to December, 1948 : Dr. G. H. POTTER.

Sanitary Inspector : Mr. F. BUTTERFIELD.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ORRELL.

July, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Orrell Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District of Orrell for the Year 1948.

Comment is required on some aspects of the Report. The number of births have decreased during 1948 and reached a total of 164, against 185 in 1947, producing an Annual Birth Rate of 18·6, a decrease of 2·6 over the preceding year. This compares favourably with the rate of 17·9 for England and Wales. The Infant Mortality Rate fell to 48 per 1,000 Live Births compared with 70 last year, and 34 for England and Wales.

The General Death Rate was 12·1, a decrease of 1·7 over 1947.

The Maternal Mortality was 6·9 against nil for the previous three years in this district and was due to the death of one mother from maternal and other causes.

There was an increase in the total number of infectious disease cases, largely resulting from an epidemic of Scarlet Fever and Measles. There was one death resulting from a case of measles.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the members of the Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health,

ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STATISTICS OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,617
Population—Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,949
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1948							8,773
Number of Inhabited Houses :—							
(a) Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,682
(b) End of 1948, according to Rate Books	..	..					2,724
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£35,136
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£130

Social Conditions.—The township of Orrell is a residential district in an agricultural area. The working class houses are built along the borders of farm lands. Coal mining and the cotton industry afford the chief employment. They are situated outside the area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

				<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births	{ Legitimate ..	..	164	..	89	.. 75
	{ Illegitimate..	..	—	..	—	..
Total				164	.. 89	.. 75

Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated population mid-1948.. 18·6

				<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Still-births	..	..	..	2	..	— .. 2
Deaths	..	..	..	107	..	55 .. 52
Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated population					..	12·1
Maternal Mortality				..	..	.. 1

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births				..	..	.. 18
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..						18
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births						Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				..	..	.. 10
compared with 22 in 1947.						
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				..	..	.. 1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				..	..	.. nil.
Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages)				..	..	.. nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					..	.. nil.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.
Orrell Urban District ..	48	70	43	50	58	32
England and Wales	34	41	43	46	46	49
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	39	47	45	54	52	58
148 Smaller Towns (resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	32	36	37	43	44	46
London Administrative County	31	37	41	53	61	58

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

	<i>Per 1,000 of estimated Population.</i>				<i>Maternal Mortality Rate.</i>		
<i>Population :—</i>	<i>Death-rate</i>				<i>Per</i>	<i>Rate of</i>	
<i>Estimate 1948 :</i>	<i>from</i>				<i>1,000</i>	<i>deaths</i>	
<i>(a) for Birth-</i>	<i>Live</i>	<i>Crude</i>	<i>Tuber-</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Per</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>under one</i>
<i>rates</i>	<i>Birth-</i>	<i>Death-</i>	<i>culosis of</i>	<i>rate</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Live &</i>	<i>year per</i>
<i>(b) for Death-</i>	<i>rate.</i>	<i>rate.</i>	<i>Respirat'y</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>Live</i>	<i>Still-</i>	<i>1,000 Live</i>
<i>rates 8,773.</i>	<i>rate.</i>	<i>rate.</i>	<i>System.</i>	<i>Cancer.</i>	<i>births.</i>	<i>births.</i>	<i>births.</i>
Mean of five years 1943-47	19.1	12.8	0.35	1.80	1.17	1.11	50
Year 1947 ..	21.2	13.8	0.34	2.52	Nil	Nil	70
Year 1948 ..	18.6	12.1	Nil	1.13	6.09	6.02	48
Increase or de- crease in 1948 on 5 years' aver. 1943-47	—0.5	—0.7	—0.35	—0.67	+4.92	+4.91	— 2
Previous year	—2.6	—1.7	—0.34	—1.39	+6.09	+6.02	—22

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1948.

						<i>Male.</i>		<i>Female.</i>
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	2
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	6
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions				..	..	5	..	10
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	7
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	..					—	..	2
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	1
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—
Other Digestive Diseases			..	..	..	1	..	1
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1
Premature Birth		..	..	..	..	3	..	—
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries	..					2	..	1
Other Violent Causes	..	..	..	..		2	..	3
All Other Causes		..	..	..	..	7	..	16
						<u>55</u>	..	<u>52</u>

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

<i>Disease.</i>	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.
Scarlet Fever	.. 78	.. 16	.. 16	.. 18	.. 21	.. 30
Whooping Cough	.. 5	.. 8	.. 24	.. 4	.. 16	.. 21
Diphtheria	.. —	.. 6	.. 1	.. 2	.. —	.. 1
Erysipelas	.. 2	.. —	.. 2	.. 1	.. 4	.. 4
Measles	.. 193	.. 59	.. 98	.. 142	.. 7	.. 165
Pneumonia	.. 6	.. 1	.. 4	.. 11	.. 11	.. 10
Cerebro Spinal Fever	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. 1	.. 1
Puerperal Pyrexia	.. —	.. 1	.. —	.. —	.. 1	.. —
Meningitis	.. —	.. 2	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. —
Acute Poliomyelitis	.. —	.. 3	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. —
Totals	.. 284	.. 96	.. 145	.. 178	.. 61	.. 232

During the Year 1948 they were distributed in the Wards as follows :—

<i>Disease.</i>				<i>East Ward. West Ward.</i>	
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	53	25
Pneumonia	..	..	..	5	1
Measles	..	..	..	120	73
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	4	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..	1	1
				183	101

AGE GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1948.

<i>Age Groups.</i>				<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>	<i>Whooping Cough.</i>	<i>Measles.</i>	<i>Pneumonia.</i>	<i>Erysipelas.</i>				
Under 1 year	—	..	1	..	7	..	—	..	—	
1-2 years..	—	..	—	..	22	..	—	..	—	
2-3 „	1	..	1	..	19	..	—	..	—	
3-4 „	4	..	1	..	29	..	—	..	—	
4-5 „	7	..	2	..	36	..	1	..	—	
5-10 „	42	..	—	..	79	..	—	..	—	
10-15 „	17	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	—	
15-20 „	4	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	
20-25 „	2	..	—	..	1	..	2	..	—	
25-35 „	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	
35-45 „	—	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	—	
45-65 „	1	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	1	
65-upwards..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	1	
				78	..	5	..	193	..	6	..	2

Scarlet Fever.—78 cases were notified and 71 cases were school children under the age of 14 years. Twelve cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Whelley.

Pneumonia.—There were 6 cases, 5 in the East Ward and 1 in the West Ward.

Measles.—193 Cases were notified and of these 161 cases were notified during December. The epidemic began in November, 1948, and ended in February, 1949. The age incidence can be seen in the foregoing table. There was one death from measles a male child age 8 months.

Whooping Cough.—Whooping Cough accounted for 5 cases, which occurred in the early autumn.

Erysipelas.—There were two cases both in a mild form and treated at home—one case in each ward.

Food Poisoning.—There were no cases of food poisoning in this district during 1948.

Diphtheria.—It is pleasing to record that there were no cases of diphtheria notified this year, as against 6 in 1947.

Immunisation against diphtheria has been continued under this Council's control up to the 4th July, 1948, after which date the responsibility for immunisation treatment passed to the Lancashire County Council. Since the commencement of the scheme in 1942 up to the 4th July, 1948, a total of 1,196 children under the age of 15 years completed the full course of injections.

During 1948, 136 children under 5 years and 15 children over 5 years were immunised, and 5 children received reinforcing doses.

Hospital Accommodation.—There is no Hospital or Nursing Home situated within this area. The district is well served by general and specialised hospitals. Emergency cases received prompt attention and the ambulance service was satisfactory. Infectious cases requiring isolation are accommodated in the Isolation Hospital at Whelley in the Borough of Wigan.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Notifications received during the year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows:—

New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

<i>Age Periods.</i>				<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
				<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
<i>Years.</i>				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>
0-1	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	..	..	..	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5-10	..	..	..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
10-15	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	..	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	..	..	..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-35	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	..	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	..			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	..	..		4	2	1	4	—	—	—	—
				6		5		nil.		nil.	

Notification of Tuberculosis is usually prompt and satisfactory. The County Council provide facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis at the Dispensary, 3, Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan.

Schools.—A School Clinic is provided by the County Council at Orrell Road, Orrell, where children may attend for inspection and treatment of Minor Ailments. A Specialist attends the Ophthalmic Session which is held weekly at the Clinic. The Assistant Divisional Medical Officer is in attendance at the School Clinic, and is also responsible for the carrying out of the Routine Medical Inspection of the children in the Schools. The School Attendance Officer supplies a weekly return of the children who are absent from school through sickness. It has not been found necessary to close any of the Schools during the past year.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—An Infant Welfare Clinic is held each Thursday afternoon at the Orrell Road Clinic. A Specialist Ante-natal Clinic is held each Wednesday afternoon. The attendances at all the Clinics have been very good.

Water Supply.—The town's supply is mainly derived from an old mine shaft at Dean Wood off Gathurst Road. It is a good potable water, ample, and its quality remains fairly constant as proved by frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations. The water is supplied direct to the houses by public mains. The mains were flushed regularly to remove "ochre" deposits. Loan sanction has been received and construction works are in progress for aeration, iron removal filtration plant and a new storage reservoir of 120,000 gallons capacity.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.—No action taken.

Drainage and Sewerage.—40 lineal yards of 12in. and 520 yards of 9in. sewers were constructed on the Moor Road Housing Site.

Closet Accommodation.—There are 38 middens with 63 closets serving houses considered for demolition. During the year 5 privy middens were converted to water closets.

Public Cleansing.—Three men are engaged full time on street cleansing and six men and a refuse vehicle on refuse collection, which is disposed of by controlled tipping on a newly acquired refuse tip at Captain's Clough on the town's southern boundary. Refuse is collected fortnightly. The provision of a second refuse collection vehicle during the winter months is becoming a necessity.

Offensive Trades.—There were no trades under this group, or any premises under the Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

Shops Act, 1934, and Public Health Acts, 1936.—There was no action taken. Conditions were satisfactory.

Factory and Workshops Acts.—There were 32 workshops on the register. Periodical inspections found conditions satisfactory.

Housing Statistics.—This Local Authority completed and tenanted 48 permanent traditional type houses at Rivers Street and Pinewood Crescent, and 28 houses were under construction at the end of the year. The Council have since commenced two further housing contracts on this site for 46 houses and 32 houses respectively and have purchased further land for house building purposes of sufficient extent to permit of a further 120 houses being erected thereon.

The houses so far erected have been of three distinct types comprising two and three bedroom houses, the latter being partly parlour and partly non-parlour type houses, and a fourth type comprising three bedroom houses in blocks of four is in course of construction.

The number of dwellings inspected for housing defects number 823, of these 37 were found to be unfit for human habitation and 255 were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation.

Defects in 621 houses were remedied as the result of informal action. Informal notices served on owners numbered 262 and Statutory Notices numbered 30.

The chief sanitary defects were wastage of water, defective roofs and sanitary fittings.

Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations.—There were 17 dairy farms housing approximately 200 cows. The number of cow keepers (including the dairy farms) was 17. Dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cow-keepers) numbered 29. Inspections made periodically numbered 58. General cleanliness in the shippens and their surroundings was observed. Several minor building defects were remedied.

Food Inspection.—No food was found to be unfit for human consumption.

Sanitary Requirements of the District.—The conversion of 38 privy middens to water closets, the provision of sewerage facilities to houses in the Abbey Lakes area, the demolition of about 100 sub-standard houses and the provision of approximately 400 new houses.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1948.

Blocked or Defective W.C's. 	19
Insufficient and Defective Provision for House Refuse	81
Blocked Sewers 	5
Blocked and Defective Drains	12
Defective Houses	621
Defective Spouts	16
Houses Disinfected 	78
Rats in Houses (number of houses)	9
Sanitary Inspections (including Housing) numbered..	823
Number of Defects or Nuisances discovered	745
Number of Defects or Nuisances abated 	694

Requiring 262 informal, and 30 statutory notices.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

	1947.	1948.
No. of ashpits emptied during the year 	323	363
„ dustbins emptied during the year 	66,821	68,122
„ loads removed during the year 	1,304	1,315
„ privy closets in the district 	69	63
„ pail closets in the district 	6	6
„ privy ashpits in the district 	43	38
„ dry ashpits in the district 	6	6
„ dustbins in the district	2,690	2,729
„ fresh water-closets 	2,674	2,711

